

Message Text

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13-12

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 NASA-01 MC-02 ACDA-07 DODE-00

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FOR OES/APT/SA

DEPT PASS TO NASA HQ, CODE I

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, JA, US

SUBJECT: NASDA CONTRACTS FOR ADVANCED N-1 ROCKET PROPULSION SYSTEM

1. INDEPENDENT QUESTIONING OF STA AND JAPANESE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY OFFICIALS HAS REVEALED THAT TWO MAJOR CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN ISSUED BY NASDA AS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD DEVELOPMENT OF THE ADVANCED N-1 PROPULSION SYSTEM. MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES (MHI) WAS AWARDED CONTRACT ON 8/10/76 TO PERFORM PRELIMINARY OVERALL DESIGN OF SYSTEM, INCLUDING TOTAL SOFTWARE INTEGRATION. ISHIKAWAJIMA-HARIMA HEAVY INDUSTRIES (IHI) WAS AWARDED CONTRACT ON 8/20/76 TO DO PRELIMINARY DESIGN OF SECOND STAGE AND TO BEGIN DEVELOPMENT OF FABRICATION METHODS FOR SECOND STAGE.

2. INDUSTRY REP TOLD EMBOFF IN CONFIDENCE THAT AWARD OF TWO CONTRACTS WAS RESULT OF STA DEMAND THAT NASDA NOT GIVE ALL ADVANCED N-1 PROPULSION SYSTEM WORK TO MHI, ALTHOUGH NASDA PREFERRED SOLE CONTRACTOR TO SIMPLIFY MANAGEMENT AND FIX RESPONSIBILITY, HOWEVER, MHI WILL DOMINATE EFFORT BECAUSE OF BEING GIVEN SOFTWARE INTEGRATION JOB. QUESTION OF WHO DOES HARDWARE INTEGRATION HAS NOT YET BEEN RESOLVED.

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3. AWARD OF CONTRACTS APPEARS TO INDICATE THAT FOREIGN OFFICE

HAS INDICATED TO STA THAT IT WILL ACCEPT USG CONDITIONS OF TECHNOLOGY AND HARDWARE TRANSFER FROM U.S. HOWEVER, INDUSTRY SOURCE SAYS THAT JAPANESE COMPANIES HAVE NOT BEEN ADVISED YET TO THIS EFFECT. MHI--ON RECEIVING ITS CONTRACT--IMMEDIATELY BEGAN TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO SEND TECHNICAL TEAM TO MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS, ITS U.S. SUBCONTRACTOR, BUT MDAC TOLD MHI TO HOLD OFF BECAUSE FORMER HAD NOT YET RECEIVED AUTHORIZATION FROM USG TO BEGIN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROCESS. IHI WILL BE SENDING A NEGOTIATING TEAM TO AREOJET THIS WEEK TO NEGOTIATE SUBCONTRACT ON SECOND STAGE; IHI REALIZES THAT NO TECHNICAL DETAILS WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THIS MEETING, WHICH WILL BE LIMITED TO DEFINITION OF SCHEDULES, COSTS, PERSONNEL ETC.

4. PLEASE PROTECT INFO IN PARAS 2 AND 3 ABOVE UNTIL OR UNLESS IT IS AVAILABLE FROM OTHER SOURCES.

5. FOLLOWING DRAFTING OF INFO IN PARAS 1 TO 3 ABOVE, GOJ SPACE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY MINISTER SASAKI OF STA, MADE KNOWN TO PUBLIC ON 8-29 THAT IT HAD DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH USE OF U.S. TECHNOLOGY FOR ADVANCED N-1 SYSTEM. NEWS STORIES STRESS THEME THAT IF INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGY HAD BEEN RELIED UPON, SCHEDULE FOR LAUNCHING A METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE INTO STATIONARY ORBIT BY 1980-81 COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MET. HOWEVER, NEXT VERSION OF LAUNCHER, TO BE DEVELOPED BY 1990, IS SUPPOSED TO BE BASED ON "DOMESTIC" TECHNOLOGY.
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